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HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

I. PURPOSE

1. The present report is submitted to the Executive Board in accordance with its decision 94/15.

II. CONSULTATIONS

2. Pursuant to Executive Board decision 94/15 and General Assembly resolution 49/123, steps have been taken to improve the process of consultation with Member States and other relevant international bodies to refine the methodologies used in the report with a view to improving its quality and accuracy without compromising its editorial independence.

3. A number of initiatives have been taken to intensify consultations with Member States. Consultations on the Human Development Report 1995 began at an earlier stage than for previous reports, with a series of meetings in November 1994, which were followed by further consultations in March 1995 and supplemented by informal meetings. These consultations were very useful in identifying the relevant areas of concern, both in terms of the global development issues as well as the contribution that the Human Development Report can make.

4. Two expert advisory groups were also established, bringing together experts from all parts of the world on gender and development, the theme of the 1995 report.

5. Regarding international bodies, a policy of strengthening professional collaboration has been pursued, particularly on statistics. Increased attention has been given to the coordination and harmonization of the report's indicators



with those reported by other international statistical sources. During 1994-1995, efforts have been made to institutionalize consultations with international bodies. HDRO participated in the activities of statistical commissions and working groups, such as: the Subcommittee on Statistical Activities of the United Nations (Advisory Committee on Coordination (ACC)); the United Nations Statistical Commission and its Task Force on the Measurement of Poverty; the Creditor Reporting System of the Development Assistance Committee (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD/DAC)); and the Expert Group Meeting on Indicators for Sustainable Development, organized by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development; and informal inter-agency discussions on model-based national mortality estimates.

III. IMPROVING ACCURACY

6. Particular attention has been paid to the improvement of data accuracy in the 1995 report. All data series were reviewed and improvements introduced to ensure greater rigour and accuracy.

7. HDRO has adopted a firm policy to rely for data sources as far as possible on statistical series established by United Nations specialized agencies and other international organizations. Where such data were not available, other reliable sources were used or estimates were made based on statistical conventions.

8. More detailed recording of sources and definitions has been introduced in the 1995 report. Methodologies used are being presented more explicitly.

9. Closer attention has also been paid in the 1995 report to take account of limitations of data for policy analysis.

10. Finally, measures have been taken to strengthen the statistical capacity within the HDRO to enhance data accuracy. A full-time senior statistician has been appointed and systems are being put in place to minimize errors.

IV. EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION

11. The Executive Board may wish to:

Take note of the present report.
